

## TASKER L. ODDIE SELF-MADE MAN

Continued From Page One.

Just as the embryo miner would climb down the ladder, fill his bucket and climb out and hoist it to the surface.

Nothing much of a material nature resulted from these operations. The streak of ore was small and the work came to an abrupt end when a mine broke through to the surface, washing an end of the "bonanza." But while engaged in this absorbing task he became acquainted with a man, Jim Butler, who was to play an important part in his life. Butler had been district attorney—a job with little to do and less pay, in which Oddie succeeded him—a teacher in a small way, and a prospector of the old school with that go that made the old-timers famous in their day. One day Butler handed Oddie several samples from a prospect he had found and told him that the formation looked good and that if the samples ran anything at all it would be worth exploring. Butler had taken some samples from the find to Klondyke, a nearby camp, and shown them to Wilse Brougher and partner, Frank Higgs, who had an assay office there. Higgs threw them aside as not being worth an assay. Butler, who was a prospector, proposed that Oddie have the samples assayed. "If the stuff is any good I'll put you in on the bonanza," quoth Butler. Oddie was in the same financial condition as Butler, but he had in Austin a hand, W. C. Gayheart, an assayer, to whom he sent the samples. In a letter to Gayheart he repeated Butler's offer and proposed to cut Gayheart in on his interest should the assays show values worth while.

There were eight samples in the lot and in due time the certificate came. The lowest ran \$60 per ton of silver, the highest \$600. They were from an outcrop on what later became known as the Mizpah mine in the great silver camp of Tonopah, then a barren waste in a little frequented part of Nye county. Butler, in the meantime, had gone to his ranch. Oddie sent the assay certificate and urged him to make haste to Belmont and go with Oddie to the scene and make his locations. Butler's ranch was on a postoffice route but he made infrequent trips in the mail box down on the road. The days rolled by and merged into weeks with no reply. Oddie, in fear that some wandering prospector would find the ledge and locate it, literally "sweat blood" while waiting. Finally, Butler, unexcited by the assays, arrived with his wife in Belmont, and the two slipped away with camp equipment loaded upon a rickety wagon on their 50-mile journey. On Butler's return he took Wilse Brougher into partnership also. The three men then started for the scene of the discovery where they put up their claim monuments and started to work. It was in November, the weather cold and blustery, their shelter the sky. They had no tent at the start, no stove and nothing but scrubby sagebrush for food. There was no food for the horses, which were turned out to nibble the dry bunch grass and frequently strayed away. Water had to be hauled a distance of five miles. Oddie, being the youngest of the trio, fell heir to the extra jobs of milking the horses, hauling water and gathering fuel, besides doing the heavy work of mining. The outcrop yielded two tons of ore and then pinched out. The men then started to level off a place for a windlass and in this work uncovered a top of the Mizpah ledge.

They hauled the ore first extracted, one ton at a time, to Belmont, a long two days' trip, from which it was sent 90 miles by wagon to Austin, thence by rail to a smelter on the coast. It took six weeks to the returns, but the check that came for \$600, cheered them in their task and supplied the funds to grub. All the men subsequently became millionaires, handling large sums of money, but nothing ever looked quite as big as that \$600, which came on a stormy day in their dingy camp on a bleak hillside in a lonely quarter of the world. It was almost dusk on that winter day when Oddie reached camp with the money, blue with cold, but warmed within by visions of the future. Dropping the reins to the ground he left the tired horses standing and imparted the good news to his partners. And just then the declining sun emerged from a cloud and shed its crimson rays for a moment on the scene.

The combined money investment of these three men was \$25 in this enterprise, but they worked hard and underwent hardships galore. This is probably the world's record of big returns from small investments.

What followed is history. In the mysterious way news spreads of a new strike in the desert reaches, it quickly became known that a great

discovery had been made in Nevada, and from everywhere came hardy spirits with grub and bedding. Soon the hillside was covered with flapping tents and the roar of dynamite was heard from early morn until darkness came. Leases were let—over a hundred of them—ore teams came from some mysterious sources, and the wealth of the Mizpah was sacked and sent to the smelters. Oddie was made business manager and kept the books for 100 leases, split the money among freight haulers, lessees and the company and gave attention to a thousand details, including the railroad shipments to the smelters and attending to the marketing of ore, etc., all in an office the size of a piano-box. Other mines were developed, a town was built, and finally a railroad to connect with the Southern Pacific at Sodaville, 65 miles away.

The conduct of the great business that sprang up around the Mizpah mine was unique. Butler let the leases, which were verbal contracts, running from date of the lease until midnight of December 31, 1901. The boundaries were marked by piles of rock and determined by "stepping off," allowing three feet to the step. The lessees were permitted to select the block of ground they desired to work. There was no "paper talk"—Butler simply entered in a little notebook the names of the lessees and the number of the lease, which he reported to Oddie. The same simplicity governed the handling of the ore and the money received in settlement therefor. Oddie handled all transactions and once a month or oftener, as money was available or needed, he distributed their share in the various lessees. And it is a matter of note that not a single dispute arose between the owners and lessees in these transactions, involving several million dollars.

Stories of fabulously rich ore shipped from Tonopah, the name bestowed upon the camp, were not long in reaching the adventurers of the west who flocked to the scene, a heterogeneous crowd of men and women, all looking for the main chance. There were merchandise stores, rude "hotels," eating houses, saloons in great number and dance halls without limit. There was an unending procession of vehicles of all sorts across the sandy plain from Sodaville to Tonopah and hundreds of ore teams from Tonopah to Sodaville. By day and by night a pillar of dust ascended to the heavens, marking the devious course of the trail. Came with the crowd smooth talking promoters and ere the end of the Indian summer of 1900 the Mizpah mine was sold for \$360,000.

The story of how Jim Butler found Mizpah mine was sold for \$336,000 told until it has become legendary. The accepted version is that he had camped nearby while on route to Klondyke. In the pursuit the following morning of his strayed and perverse burros he is said to have picked up a loose rock to hurl at them along with the customary anathemas, and that, attracted by its weight, he inspected it and found it to be silver ore. Oddie pronounced

## Read Our Classified Ads

Rates: 5 lines (25 words) one time 25c; six times 50c.

### FOR SALE

FOR SALE—House and four lots. Splendid location. A bargain if taken at once. Inquire Bonanza office. 1273-N17-47.

FOR SALE—3 electrically driven compressors; 3 electric hoists complete; 1 25-h. p. gasoline hoist; 2 blowers, with motors; 5 mine cars; 2 Clipper jack hammers. For particulars inquire at Bonanza office.

### FOR SALE—1918 Ford touring car.

5 new tires, well equipped. A-1 running condition. Call Bonanza office.

FOR SALE—Doors and windows at reduced rates. Apply Old Mizpah Grill bldg.

PHONE YOUR ORDERS for wood, coal and express to Phone 1893. George Dimmick.

### HELP WANTED

WANTED—Position as camp cook, by competent man. Globe Hotel.

WANTED—Male stenographer. Correspond Box 11 D, Tonopah, Nevada.

### MISCELLANEOUS

LOST—5-gal corrugated bucket. Return to Hishop's Transfer Company. Reward.

OLD NEWSPAPERS FOR SALE—Just the thing for packing or to put under carpets. 25c per bundle. Call for them at the Bonanza office.

Advertise in The Bonanza.

## BEST — of — EVERYTHING

Served to Our  
**PATRONS**  
HAM & EGGS 50c  
— PRICES RIGHT —  
Quick Service  
MINERS LUNCHEONS  
A SPECIALTY

## Pullman

— Diner —  
Bill Neves, Prop.



on my way—  
to the  
**BELMONT CAFE**  
for  
**GOOD EATS**

Watch for Our  
Sunday Menu

## MONTANA CAFE

— for the —  
**BEST FOOD**

Private Tables for Ladies  
Boxes for Parties

— for the —  
Best Steaks — Pastries

### SERVICE

TRY IT

## MONTANA CAFE

### COMPLETE LINE

of  
**CUT GLASS**  
and  
**FANCY CHINA**

**LOTHROP-DAVIS & CO.**  
Tonopah, Nevada.

## TONOPAH & TIDEWATER RAILROAD

The SHORT LINE to  
**Los Angeles and San Diego**  
Leaves Goldfield 10:10 A. M.  
Monday, Thursday and Saturday  
Pullman Sleeper Beatty  
to Los Angeles.  
D. ASPLAND, General Agent  
GOLDFIELD — GOLDFIELD

## P. Monney J. E. Monahan DIVIDE BROKERAGE COMPANY

Rapid Returns and Prompt  
Settlements  
If you want the latest news  
about Mine Investments call at  
our office.  
Main St. Phone 2072

**UNITED CATTLE AND PACKING COMPANY**  
Carries the very best of Fresh and Smoked Meats  
Best Fruits and Vegetables Obtainable  
Deliveries Prompt and Free  
Phone 1162 Tonopah, Nevada

## THE CASINO

C. E. GRAHAM, Proprietor  
**PIONEER REFRESHMENT PARLOR OF  
SOUTHERN NEVADA**  
FULL LINE OF SOFT DRINKS ONLY THE  
STANDARD BRANDS OF CIGARS IN STOCK  
Telephone 466 Club Rooms in Connection  
You Will Find Your Friends Here

## THE DESERT CLUB

Formerly Tonopah Liquor

Full Line of Soft Drinks  
Club Room in Connection

Remodeled and Everything New

Chet. Carpenter C. T. Brown G. E. Osborne

## THE TONOPAH BANKING CORPORATION

ESTABLISHED 1908

### STRICTLY A BANKING BUSINESS

Accounts of Corporations, Merchants Individuals, Invited  
DIRECTORS—George Wingfield, H. C. Brougher, W. H. Doyle,  
Hugh H. Brown, Clyde A. Heller, J. B. Humphrey,  
E. W. BLAIR, Cashier

## Tonopah Bottling Works

Phone 812

Manufacturers of Carbonated Beverages

Lemon Soda, Raspberry Soda, Iron Port, Cream Soda,  
Hires Root Beer, Coca Cola, Strawberry Soda, Iron Beer,  
Sarsaparilla, Cider, Mineral Water, Etc.

Hall Building

Tonopah, Nevada.

# What Is an Advertisement?

Classified Advertising—Comprising rents and leases, want ads, articles lost and found, investments and miscellaneous business opportunities, the classified columns are a daily bulletin of the needs and business offerings of the public.

Read the Classified Advertisements Each Day in

## THE DAILY BONANZA